

National Stage of PCT/GB2004/003230
Attorney Docket No. S1011/20198
Preliminary Amendment Dated January 30, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of transporting semi-processed rubber, the method comprising locating the semi-processed rubber in a ship and supplying heat to the semi-processed rubber during transit to prevent solidification of, and/or crystallisation in, the semi-processed rubber.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, comprising supplying sufficient heat to the semi-processed rubber to maintain its temperature above 25 °C, most preferably in a range of from 28 to 35 °C, and even more preferably in a range of from 30 to 33 °C.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1-~~or 2~~, comprising circulating heat from the ship's engine and circulating to heat the semi-processed rubber.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, comprising circulating the water which is drawn through the engine to cool it to heat the semi-processed rubber.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding Claim_1~~, comprising using a heat exchanger to heat circulating air, the heated air being circulated into the hold of the ship where the semi-processed rubber is stored for transport.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1~~-or-2~~, comprising heating the rubber using convection heaters, for example electrical convection heaters or blowers may be used.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding Claim_1~~, comprising providing insulating material between the semi-processed rubber and at least one wall of a hold in which the semi-processed rubber is stored for transport.
8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, comprising inflating a collapsible bag or bladder to provide the insulating material.
9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding Claim_1~~, further comprising storing the semi-processed rubber in a covered warehouse or storage facility at a departure and/or destination port, the warehouse preferably being maintained at a temperature sufficient to prevent the rubber from hardening and/or crystallising during storage.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ Claim 1, further comprising transporting the semi-processed rubber to a user in a state which is usable without requiring further heating.
11. (Original) A method of supplying semi-processed rubber to a user in a usable form, the method comprising tapping latex from a rubber tree, forming a cake, transporting the cake to a local processor for semi-processing and subsequently transporting the semi-processed rubber cake to a user and ensuring that the cake does not harden or that crystals form in the cake during the first and/or second transportation step.
12. (Original) A method of transporting solid goods whose state is prone to alter during transportation, the method comprising maintaining the goods at a temperature of from 25 to 35 °C during transportation by supplying heated air to the goods using heat reclaimed from the prime mover of the means of transportation.
13. (Original) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the goods are semi-processed rubber.

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14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12-~~or~~-13, wherein at least part of said transportation takes place on a ship and said transportation means is a ship.

15. (Original) A method of supplying semi-processed rubber to a user, the method comprising storing the semi-processed rubber at a location which is maintained at a temperature to prevent or at least inhibit the hardening of, or formation of crystals in, the semi-processed rubber.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim 15, comprising maintaining the temperature of the location at or above 24°C.